

In the Claims

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 44 46, wherein said hull is a single hull.
3. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 44 46, wherein said opposing mast portions define a loop that is elliptical.
4. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 44 46, wherein said opposing mast portions define a loop that is ovoid, with an apex at the top of the mast.
5. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 44 45, wherein the maximum width beam of said mast is in the range 60 to 90 percent of its height.
6. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 5, wherein the maximum width beam of said mast is in the range 65 to 85 percent of its height.
7. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 6, wherein the maximum width beam of said mast is in the range 70 to 80 percent of its height.
8. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 7, wherein the maximum width beam of said mast is substantially 75 percent of its height.
9. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 44 46, wherein said mast is formed of at least one closed hollow member.
10. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 9, wherein said mast is formed of a single closed hollow member having ends that are connected at the top of the mast.
11. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 9, wherein said mast is formed of a plurality of closed hollow members having ends that are connected at the top and the bottom of the mast.

12. (previously presented) A sailing boat according to claim 11, wherein a tabernacle connects said ends of said closed hollow members at the bottom of the mast.
13. (previously presented) A sailing boat according to claim 9, wherein said hollow member is at least partially filled with foam or other buoyancy-assisting material.
14. (previously presented) A sailing boat according to claim 41, wherein said mast is mounted so as to afford movement of the mast between an operative position in which it extends abeam of the hull and a stowed position in which it extends more fore and aft of the hull.
15. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 14, wherein the mast when in said stowed position extends substantially fore and aft of the hull.
16. (previously presented) A sailing boat according to claim 14, wherein said movement comprises pivoting movement of the mast between said operative position and said stowed position.
17. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 46, wherein said main spar is connected to the mast at or adjacent a top centre point of the mast.
18. (previously presented) A sailing boat according to claim 41, including stays for supporting opposite sides of the mast.
19. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 18, including stay adjustment means for adjusting said stays and thereby the take of the mast.
20. (previously presented) A sailing boat according to claim 41, wherein said main spar extends at an angle in the range 35 to 55 degrees to the horizontal.
21. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 20, wherein said main spar extends at an angle in the range 40 to 50 degrees to the horizontal.
22. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 21, wherein said main spar extends at an angle of substantially 45 degrees to the horizontal.

23. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 ~~46~~, wherein said hull is provided with a bowsprit and a forward end of said main spar is located on said bowsprit, forward of the bow of the hull.
24. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 23, including means for adjusting the position of said forward end of said main spar on said bowsprit.
25. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 ~~46~~, wherein said main spar has a cross-section that tapers towards its upper end.
26. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 ~~46~~, wherein said main spar has a degree of flexibility that increases towards its upper end.
27. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 ~~46~~, wherein said mast is located at a distance from the bow of the hull that is in the range 25 to 40 percent of the length of the hull.
28. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 27, wherein said mast is located at a distance from the bow of the hull that is substantially one-third of the length of the hull.
29. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 ~~46~~, wherein said sail has a lower, aft corner that is tethered substantially above the centre line of the hull.
30. (original) A sailing boat according to claim 29, including means for adjusting the position of said aft corner up to 100mm either side of the centre line of the hull.
31. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 ~~46~~, wherein said sail extends from a position forward of the bow of the hull to a position substantially above the stern of the hull.
32. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 ~~46~~, wherein said sail is of substantially triangular shape.
33. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41 ~~46~~, wherein the dimensions and locations of said mast, main spar and sail are such that, when deployed, the sail cannot touch the mast.

34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41, wherein ~~each~~ said ~~side portion of the~~ mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 20 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

36. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41, wherein ~~each~~ said ~~side portion of the~~ mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 30 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

37. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41, wherein ~~each~~ said ~~side portion of the~~ mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 40 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

38. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41, wherein ~~each~~ said ~~side portion of the~~ mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 50 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

39. (currently amended) A sailing boat according to claim 41, wherein ~~each~~ said ~~side portion of the~~ mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 60 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

40. (cancelled).

41. (currently amended) A sailing boat comprising:

a hull;

a mast that is mounted directly or indirectly on the hull so as to be substantially fixed in use, extends upwardly at from one side of the hull, outwardly beyond said side of the hull, and then inwardly returns to a point substantially above the centre line of the hull;

a main spar supported on the mast with the main spar extending upwardly from a lower, fore position forward of the mast to a higher, aft position aft of the mast; and

a sail depending from the main spar for deployment to one side of the mast
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~~wherein said mast extends outwardly from said hull prior to returning to said point.~~

42 - 44. (cancelled)

45. (new) A sailing boat comprising:

a hull;

a mast that is mounted directly or indirectly on the hull so as to be substantially fixed in use, and comprises a pair of opposing side portions, each of which extends upwardly at a respective side of the hull, outwardly beyond said side of the hull, and then inwardly to a point substantially above the centre line of the hull, where said side portions are joined;

a main spar supported on the mast with the main spar extending upwardly from a lower, fore position forward of the mast to a higher, aft position aft of the mast; and

a sail depending from the main spar for deployment between said opposing side portions.

46. (new) A sailing boat comprising:

a hull;

a mast that is mounted directly or indirectly on the hull so as to be substantially fixed in use, and comprises a pair of opposing side portions, each of which extends upwardly at a respective side of the hull, and then inwardly to a point substantially above the centre line of the hull, where said side portions are joined;

a main spar supported on the mast with the main spar extending upwardly from a lower, fore position forward of the mast to a higher, aft position aft of the mast; and

a sail depending from the main spar for deployment between said opposing side portions:

wherein the maximum width of said mast is at least 60 percent of its height.

47. (new) A sailing boat according to claim 46, wherein said mast is in the form of a closed loop.